

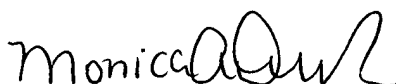
II. PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicants petition for an extension of time of three month to and including December 25, 2004, in which to respond to the Office Action dated June 25, 2004. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, a check for the appropriate fee is enclosed, which is the process fee for a three-month extension of time. If the check is inadvertently omitted, or should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/UTSC:664.

Should the Examiner have any comments or questions with regard to any statements contained herein, or any suggestions as to claim modification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' representative listed below at (512) 536-3055.

Please date-stamp and return the enclosed postcard evidencing receipt of these materials.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica A. De La Paz
Reg. No. 54,662

Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, L.L.P.
600 Congress Ave., Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 536-3055
(512) 536-4598 (facsimile)

Date: December 23, 2004